

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 131636Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3151

INFO AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1287

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NL, NA, NS

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF REALM AFFAIRS COMMENTS ON

ANTILLES AND SURINAM INDEPENDENCE

REF: A) THE HAGUE 1075 B) THE HAGUE 876

SUMMARY: DURING PRESS CONFERENCE ON RETURN FROM VIST  
TO SURINAM AND ANTILLES, MINISTER OF REALM AFFAIRS  
DE GAAY FORTMAN SAID 1975 WAS TOO EARLY A DATE FOR  
ANTILLES INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER DE GAAY FORTMAN RETURNED FROM VISIT TO  
ANTILLES AND SURINAM MARCH 12. HE TOLD PRESS AT  
AIRPORT THAT ANTILLES, UNLIKE SURINAM, HAD NO FIXED  
DATE IN MIND FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THAT IN ANY EVENT  
ANTILLES GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED 1975 FAR TOO EARLY FOR  
INDEPENDENCE.

2. DE GAAY FORTMAN SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED  
BEFOREHAND BY PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL ABOUT "REALM  
SUMMIT" IN APRIL. THE MINISTER UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER,  
WHY THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED CONFERENCE,ESPECIALLY  
AFTER "THE SURPRISING GOVERNMENT DECLARATION IN  
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SURINAM." DE GAAY FORTMAN SAID THAT THE ANTILLES

PREMIER FIRST LEARNED OF THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE FROM THE NEWSPAPERS. LATER HE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM WITH DETAILS AND AN INVITATION. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT THIS WORK OF THE REALM COMMISSION MUST BE SPEEDED UP DRASTICALLY.

3. REALM AFFIARS MINISTER SAID WHEN IN SURINAM HE HAD TALKED TO SURINAMESE OPPOSITION LEADER LACHMON. MINISTER SAID, "MY IMPRESSION IS THAT NOW HE IS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT POLITICAL REALITIES." MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE SURINAM BORDER PROBLEM WITH GUYANA BE SOLVED PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE NOTING BOTH PARTIES HAD KEPT THE BORDER QUESTION ON ICE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS A POSSIBLILITY OF AN EXPEDITIOUS BORDER SETTLEMENT, DE GAAY FORTMAN SAID THIS WAS A QUESTION FOR MINISTER VAN DER STOEL.

4. ASKED TO COMMENT ON STATEMENT BY REALM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN PROFESSOR VAN DER HOEVEN THAT SURINAMESE INDEPENDENCE MIGHT REQUIRE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NECESSITATING DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT AND NEW PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, DE GAAY FORTMAN (WHO IS CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERT) SAID THIS NOT NECESSARY AND SAID ONLY THING REQUIRED WAS TO CHANGE GEOGRAPHICAL ENUMERATION OF NETHERLANDS REALM IN FIRST ARTICLE OF CONSTITUTION. THIS HAD BEEN DONE WHEN INDONESIA BECAME INDEPENDENT AND LEZER WHEN WEST IRIAN CEDED TO INDONESIA.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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